

Acts 25:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

Analysis

Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure (θέλων χάριν καταθέσθαι, thelōn charin katathesthai)—literally 'wishing to lay down favor.' Despite recognizing Paul's innocence, Festus immediately compromised judicial integrity for political expediency. The same corruption that characterized Felix now infected his successor. Roman justice, though superior to mob rule, remained vulnerable to political manipulation.

His question—**Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem?**—was juridically absurd. The accused doesn't choose his venue; the magistrate determines jurisdiction. Festus's offer reveals willingness to abandon proper legal procedure to appease volatile subjects, turning Paul's trial into a political bargaining chip.

Historical Context

Festus faced the same challenge that destroyed Felix: governing Judea's religiously fanatical population while maintaining Roman authority. His attempt to 'do the Jews a pleasure' shows how quickly political pressure corrupted even capable administrators. Paul would likely have been ambushed en route to Jerusalem, as earlier plots intended (Acts 23:12-15).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do political expediency and 'doing favors' corrupt justice systems today?
2. When have you faced pressure to compromise integrity to gain favor with powerful groups?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	Φῆστος	δὲ	τοῖς	Ἰουδαίοις	Θέλεις	χάριν
G3588	Festus	But	G3588	the Jews	Wilt thou	a pleasure
	G5347	G1161		G2453	G2309	G5485
καταθέσθαι	ἀποκριθεὶς	τῷ	Παύλῳ	εἶπεν	Θέλεις	εἰς
to do	answered	G3588	Paul	and said	Wilt thou	to
G2698	G611		G3972	G2036	G2309	G1519
Ἱεροσόλυμα	ἀναβὰς	ἐκεῖ	περὶ	τούτων	κρίνεσθαι	ἐπ'
Jerusalem	go up	and there	of	these things	be judged	before
G2414	G305	G1563	G4012	G5130	G2919	G1909
ἐμοῦ						
me						
G1700						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:27 (References Paul): But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

Acts 25:20 (Judgment): And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters.

Acts 12:3 (Parallel theme): And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org